

June, 1999



Wastewater News

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>



Clean Water . . . a better environment
Office of Wastewater Management

Working towards Clean Water



UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

What is happening in June?

Go to the OW Calendar of Events site by clicking here
<<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/news.nsf/owcalendar?openview&Grid=4>>

Upcoming Events

Biosolids

National Meeting: OWM and the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources are planning a national meeting for Headquarters, Regional, and State personnel involved in all aspects of the biosolids program, including program management and technical support, permitting, compliance, and enforcement. The meeting will be held from June 28-30, 1999, at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD, outside Washington, D.C. The agenda is currently being developed. Lodging and meals (but not travel) for one representative from each State will be paid for under a grant to the State of Wisconsin. OWM will defray cost of meals and lodging for one person from each Regional office. Additional State/Regional representatives may attend at their own expense. For additional information, contact Ed Gross on (202) 260-7370.

Urban Water Resource Tools

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago, February 7 - 10, 2000. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see <http://www.nipccog.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm> or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

Workshop for Local Officials on Onsite Wastewater Management June 14 and 16, 1999

Two regional one-day workshops, "Protecting Your Community's Water Resources: A Workshop for Local Officials on On-Site Wastewater Management" are planned for June 14 & 16 1999 in Westford, MA and Kingston, RI respectively. Sponsored by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), EPA Region 1, National Small Flows Clearinghouse and others, the workshops will examine in detail the requirements, the benefits, and the obstacles to establishing an on-site wastewater management program. Municipal leaders, town planners, environmental interest groups, state regulators, concerned citizens, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact NEIWPCC at (978) 323-7929 or send email to mail@neiwpcc.org or call the Marine Studies at (617) 566-8600. Information will also be posted on NEIWPCC's web site at <http://www.neiwpcc.org>.

2 The Office of Wastewater Management

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training Courses

The SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Foundation has developed a two day Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) training course as part of its ongoing activities under a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water (Permits Division). The next offering is at the North Atlantic Regional Chapter on June 23-24, 1999 in Boston, Massachusetts. Please contact Cornelia Mueller at (401) 782-1900 for information at this location or see additional contact information below. SETAC's WET training course schedule is updated periodically and the current course(s) in SETAC's Regional Chapters are listed below. The WET course will cover water quality topics such as Criteria and Standards, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting and enforcement, WET testing and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), as they apply to the WET program. If you would like to request a two day training course for your State, Tribe or group or need more information about the courses or the schedule, please contact Gregory (Greg) Schiefer at the SETAC Foundation at (850-469-1500), by fax (850-469-9778) or by E-mail (setac@setac.org). Alternatively, you may contact Laura Phillips (EPA) at (202)-260-9522.

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities Course Offered. NETCSC's course "Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities" are scheduled for June 17-18 in Denver and July 8-9 in Morgantown, West Virginia. The course overviews treatment technology options, financing, Federal and State regulations, how to select a consulting engineer, and effective teaching of adult learners. For more information contact EPA project officer Betty B. Ford 202-260-8510. To register contact Sandy Miller of NETCSC at West Virginia University; P.O. Box 6064; Morgantown, WVA 26506-6064; tel: 800-624-8301 ext 5536.

EPA/WEF Pretreatment Training Courses

Two Pretreatment Training Courses are now offered. EPA Office of Wastewater Management is continuing to co-sponsor Pretreatment Training Courses with Water Environment Federation in 1999 by offering both Fundamentals and Advanced courses.

The Fundamentals (or "Basic") Course is designed to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework on the development and implementation of pretreatment programs. The Course is recommended for environmental professionals responsible for implementing the Pretreatment Program at the local level, for industrial dischargers and consultants, and is especially designed for individuals that are new to the program. The tentative 1999 schedule for this course is: July 10-20 - Detroit, Michigan; September 14-15 - Anaheim, California; September 20-21 - Portland, Oregon.

Industrial User Classification & Permitting (or the "Advanced") Course focuses on industrial user identification, classification, and permitting. This course uses problem solving exercises and group discussions to reinforce materials presented in lectures, and is recommended for individuals whom have pretreatment experience and/or that have taken the fundamentals course. The tentative 1999 schedule for this course is: June 28-29 - Nashville, TN; July 19-21, Detroit, MI; September 16-17 - Anaheim, CA.

For more information, contact Patrick Bradley at (202) 260-6963.

Western Public Service Commissioners Meeting

The Municipal Assistance Branch will participate on the Water Panel of the 58th Annual Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners in Vail, Colo. on June 14, 1999. Former Senator Paul Simon will discuss his recent book, *Tapped Out: The Coming World Crisis in Water and What We Can Do About It*. The other panelists are expected to provide counterpoints to Mr. Simon's book. For more information, contact John Flowers (202) 260-7288.

3 The Office of Wastewater Management

CWA 104(g)(1) - Waste water Treatment Plant Operator On-Site Technical Assistance and Training Activities

The National Operator Trainers' Conference will be held from June 6 through the 9, 1999 in Providence, Rhode Island. The final agenda for the Conference was issued in April 1999 and is posted on the Internet at epa.gov/owm/annoper.htm. The Conference will include technical sessions, trouble shooting sessions, field trips, and an awards ceremony.

This is the fourth year awards will be given out at the Conference. The awards ceremony will be held on Monday June 7, 1999 from 12:00PM through 1:00PM. The Enthusiasm Award, Spark Plug Award, the Jack Sampson Most Improved Plant Award (first and second place), and Onsite/Oversite Award will be handed out at the ceremony.

Representative from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and New England Interstate are coordinating the Conference events. For more information regarding this event access this Program's web-page at epa.gov/owm/tomm.htm.

Final discussions regarding the New England Interstate's POTW_PAS software package, which is a program that can be used to trouble-shoot problems at small wastewater treatment plants (<5MGD), will be held prior to the National Conference on June 4 and 5, 1999. For more information regarding the software package access this Program's web-page at epa.gov/owm/perana.htm.

The Maryland Center for Environmental Training has compiled the 104(g)(1) training center survey and regional coordinator survey data. Preliminary results will be discussed at the June 1999 National Operator Trainer's Conference. The final report shall be posted on the Internet on the 104(g) web-page.

The final version national 104(g)(1) Program's tracking database was disbursed to the Regional 104(g)(1) Program Coordinators in May 1999. Discussion on implementing the use of this database will take place at National Operator Trainer's Conference.

Please contact Curt Baranowski at 202-260-5806 for information regarding the above-mentioned or 104(g)(1) Program related matters.

Outreach: EPA Water Conservation Plan Guidelines

On June 21, 1999 at the Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association in Chicago, an EPA representative will moderate a panel entitled "Experiences Using EPA's Water Conservation Plan Guidelines." Panel members include representatives from California, Georgia, and the District of Columbia.

The May 1999 issue of *Opflow* published by the American Water Works Association contains an article entitled, "Water Accounting for Management and Conservation," which promotes a method for water accounting and various management strategies that water systems can use to reduce losses and conserve water. The article is based on the EPA's Water Conservation Plan Guidelines which were published in August, 1998. For more information, contact John Flowers (202) 260-7288.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. We expect to publish a proposed rule in July, 1999. For more information, contact Brian Frazer on (202) 260-0101.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms would be revised to reflect amendments to the Clean Water Act and changes in program requirements and emphasis. This action would also develop a sewage sludge permit application form and revise permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1995. Comment review is complete and we are expecting the final rule in July, 1999. For more information, contact Wendy Bell on (202) 260-9534.

Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution (Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)

The proposal will streamline portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. We anticipate publication of the proposed rule in July. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Information Collection Request for the National Pretreatment Program

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), EPA is soliciting comments on the continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) for the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403), EPA ICR 0002.08 (expires October 31, 1999), OMB Control Number 2040-009. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection, which are described in the Federal Register notice that was published on April 12, 1999. Comments must be submitted by June 11, 1999. For further information, contact Jan Marie Pickrel on (202) 260-7904.

OTHER INFORMATION

National Drought Policy Commission

The National Drought Policy Act of 1998 established the National Drought Policy Commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. Background clearances for Commission nominees are now being conducted. The first Commission meeting and public hearing have been proposed for July 20-21, 1999. The Commission will meet a minimum of three times and hold 2-4 public meetings. EPA is represented on three of the five working groups, which are to make final submissions for the Commissioners briefing books by June 11, 1999. The Interagency Contact Group, of which Mike Cook is a member, is to comment on the briefing books by June 23, 1999. For more information, contact John Flowers on 202-260-7288.

Water Conservation Requirements in Final MWRA Permit

On May 20, 1999, EPA Region 1 and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection announced the issuance of the NPDES permit for the discharge of effluent from the Deer Island Treatment Plant to Massachusetts Bay and from 14 CSOs to Boston Harbor and several rivers. Among its notable aspects, the permit contains stringent requirements for water conservation. The Municipal Assistance Branch provided technical assistance to EPA Region 1 on the draft final NPDES permit. More information can be found at <www.epa.gov/region01/reginit/overview.html> or by contacting John Flowers (202) 260-7288.

Water and Sewer Improvements for Northampton County, Virginia

Sylvia Bell (MSD) and Jim Kern, Region 3, met with officials of the Northampton Board of Supervisors, and the Planning District Commission on May 25, 1999, to discuss the scope of work they proposed for EPA's \$30,000 in grant funding. Funding is intended to support the development of engineering studies for appropriate water and sewer systems in the County. The Region 3 expects to receive a grant application from the County in early June 1999 for grant award before the end of the fiscal year. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

CWSRF FY 2000 Nonpoint Source and Estuary Management Grant Proposal

The Administration is proposing that up to 20% of FY 2000 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Capitalization Grants be available for use as grants, instead of loans, for nonpoint source and estuary projects. The entire allotment of the CWSRF appropriation will be provided to States and Puerto Rico as CWSRF capitalization grants. The CWSRFs may choose to use an amount equal to 20% of their capitalization grants from FY 2000 funds as grants from the CWSRF. Although the grant is limited to 20% of the Federal capitalization grants, the actual funds used to make the grants may come from previous loan repayments, interest earnings, bond proceeds, state match, as well as the Federal grant. If the State chooses to make grants with repayments, interest earnings or bond proceeds, the other Federal requirements applicable to the CWSRF program (cross-cutters) would not apply. This simplifies the use of these funds for small organizations and private land owners, who may find these requirements a deterrent to accepting funding. For more information, contact Stephanie vonFeck at (202) 260-9762, or download the recently developed fact sheet detailing the proposal <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/2kgtrfct.htm>>.

Rural Hardship Grants Program

Ohio took a unique approach to using their Hardship Grant. Instead of providing the money to one community, often to install a collector sewer, they decided to focus the funding on upgrading on-site systems. They have taken advantage of the flexible structure EPA offered by operating the program in conjunction with the SRF. Communities have endorsed the program wholeheartedly and, as a result, Ohio plans to continue the program with State funding. For more information, contact Stephanie vonFeck at (202) 260-9762.

National Onsite Demonstration Project

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse recently submitted a report to Congress regarding progress and accomplishments under the National Onsite Demonstration Project. The project, funded by Congress through EPA's budget and administered by the Clearinghouse is entering its fifth phase of funding. Begun in 1993, the project has received \$6 million of funding for the purpose of demonstrating alternative onsite and decentralized wastewater technologies and management programs. A broad range of alternative technologies have been installed in the 13 states who are currently participating.. Copies of the report may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve Hogue (202) 260-5841.

RCAP's Highlights of Selected Small Community Wastewater Projects

The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) provides on-site technical and financial management assistance to small, rural communities. RCAP targets communities with operations, financing, management, construction and compliance needs. For the FY 1998 project year, RCAP provided community-specific technical and financial management assistance for 102 projects in 26 states. The small community wastewater project is funded by a Congressional add-on grant. Visit OWM's small community website at <www.epa.gov/owm/1rcap.htm> for highlights of how small, rural communities have benefitted from RCAP's efforts. For more information, call Maria Campbell at (202) 260-5815.

END OF REPORT